

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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Clerk of Court

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL COURT NAMES NEW CLERK

MADISON, WI—Peter Oppeneer has been selected by Chief Judge Barbara Crabb to serve as the new Clerk of Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. Joel Turner, who has been serving as Acting Clerk since the resignation of former clerk Theresa Owens in July of this year, will resume the position of Chief Deputy.

As clerk of court, Oppeneer will be the court's chief administrative officer. He will also function as the court's case mediator, working with parties and their lawyers to settle cases before trial.

Oppeneer, 48, has a long history with the court, having served as a career law clerk to Judge John C. Shabaz since 1987. From 1991-1997, he served as co-reporter for the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group for the Western District of Wisconsin. A native of Sheboygan, Oppeneer obtained his undergraduate degree in 1982 from the University of Wisconsin Business School and his law degree in 1985 from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Oppeneer was one of five finalists recommended to the court by a six-member selection committee chaired by Robert Shumaker, President of the Western District Bar Association and a shareholder at Dewitt, Ross & Stevens, SC.

Oppeneer has been an active community volunteer with the Madison Metropolitan School District, the Madison East High Purgolder Booster Club, the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association and the Boy Scouts. He and his wife, Lawrie Kobza, have three children. Their youngest child, Elizabeth, is a junior at Madison East High School.